

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) An electrical extension cord comprising:
an electrical cable having first and second ends including separate, insulated
phase and neutral conductors surrounded by a conductive sensing shield wherein said
cable is electrically connected at first ends of the phase and neutral conductors and
conductive sensing shield to a plug having phase and neutral blades,
a receptacle connected to the second end of the cable,
a fault circuit interrupter wherein the fault circuit interrupter is electrically
connected at load end phase, neutral and shield ports to the cable at second ends of the
phase, neutral and shield conductors, and at line end phase and neutral ports to the phase
and neutral plug blades and wherein leakage current collected by the shield enables
operation of the fault circuit interrupter to electrically disconnect the receptacle from the
plug if an unsafe condition should arise, and ~~The electrical extension cord of claim 3,~~
further comprising

a switch located in the receptacle for testing the integrity of the extension cord.

7. (Original) The electrical extension cord of claim 6, wherein the switch in the receptacle is used to test for shield continuity.

8. (Original) The electrical extension cord of claim 6, wherein the switch in the receptacle tests the fault circuit interrupter by simulating a leakage condition in the extension cord.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) An electrical extension cord comprising:

an electrical cable having first and second ends including separate, insulated phase and neutral conductors surrounded by a conductive sensing shield wherein said cable is electrically connected at first ends of the phase and neutral conductors and conductive sensing shield to a plug having phase and neutral blades,

a receptacle connected to the second end of the cable, and

a fault circuit interrupter wherein the fault circuit interrupter is electrically connected at load end phase, neutral and shield ports to the cable at second ends of the phase, neutral and shield conductors, and at line end phase and neutral ports to the phase and neutral plug blades and wherein leakage current collected by the shield enables operation of the fault circuit interrupter to electrically disconnect the receptacle from the plug ~~The electrical extension cord of claim 1, wherein the fault circuit interrupter electrically disconnects the receptacle from the plug should the shield become discontinuous.~~

11 - 14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently amended) An electrical extension cord comprising:
an electrical cable having first and second ends including separate, insulated phase and neutral conductors surrounded by a conductive sensing shield wherein said cable is electrically connected at first ends of the phase and neutral conductors and conductive sensing shield to a plug having phase and neutral blades,
a receptacle connected to the second end of the cable,
a fault circuit interrupter wherein the fault circuit interrupter is electrically connected at load end phase, neutral and shield ports to the cable at second ends of the phase, neutral and shield conductors, and at line end phase and neutral ports to the phase and neutral plug blades and wherein leakage current collected by the shield enables operation of the fault circuit interrupter to electrically disconnect the receptacle from the plug wherein the extension cord contains a light located in the plug of the extension cord which denotes if the extension cord is safe to use, and

~~The electrical extension cord of claim 14, further comprising a switch located in the receptacle plug for testing the integrity of the extension cord.~~

16. (Original) The electrical extension cord of claim 15, wherein the switch in the plug is used to test for shield continuity.

17. (Original) The electrical extension cord of claim 15, wherein the switch in the plug tests the fault circuit interrupter by simulating a leakage condition in the extension cord.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) An electrical extension cord comprising:
an electrical cable including separate, insulated phase and neutral conductors surrounded by a conductive shield wherein said cable is electrically connected at first ends of the phase and neutral conductors and conductive shield to a receptacle,
an electrical plug comprising a plug housing, phase and neutral plug blades,
a fault circuit interrupter wherein the fault circuit interrupter is electrically connected at load end phase, neutral and shield ports to the cable at second ends of the phase, neutral and shield conductors, and at line end phase and neutral ports to the phase and neutral plug blades, and
impedance sensing means coupled to operate the fault circuit interrupter to electrically disconnect the receptacle from the plug upon the detection of an impedance between the shield and neutral conductors of less than a predetermined value.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) An electrical extension cord comprising:
an electrical cable including separate, insulated phase and neutral conductors surrounded by a conductive shield wherein said cable is electrically connected at first ends of the phase and neutral conductors and conductive shield to a receptacle,
an electrical plug comprising a plug housing, phase and neutral plug blades,

a fault circuit interrupter wherein the fault circuit interrupter is electrically connected at load end phase, neutral and shield ports to the cable at second ends of the phase, neutral and shield conductors, and at line end phase and neutral ports to the phase and neutral plug blades, and

impedance sensing means coupled to operate the fault circuit interrupter to electrically disconnect the receptacle from the plug upon the detection of an impedance between the shield and a ground of less than a predetermined value.

24. (Original) The electrical extension cord of claim 23 wherein the electrical cable is a flat cord.

25. (Original) The electrical extension cord of claim 23 wherein the electrical cable is a flat cord which includes a ground conductor.

26. (Original) An electrical extension cord comprising:
an electrical cable including separate, insulated phase and neutral conductors surrounded by a conductive shield wherein said cable is electrically connected at first ends of the phase and neutral conductors and conductive shield to a receptacle,
an electrical plug comprising a plug housing, phase and neutral plug blades,
a fault circuit interrupter wherein the fault circuit interrupter is electrically connected at load end phase, neutral and shield ports to the cable at second ends of the phase, neutral and shield conductors, and at line end phase and neutral ports to the phase and neutral plug blades, and
tripping means coupled to operate the fault circuit interrupter to electrically disconnect the receptacle from the plug upon the opening of the shield conductor.

27. (Original) The electrical extension cord of claim 26 wherein the electrical cable is a flat cord.

28. (Original) The electrical extension cord of claim 26 wherein the electrical cable is a flat cord which includes a ground conductor.

29 – 31 (Cancelled).

32. (Currently amended) An electrical extension cord comprising:
an electrical cable including separate, insulated phase and neutral conductors surrounded by a conductive sensing shield wherein said cable is electrically connected at first ends of the phase and neutral conductors and conductive sensing shield to a receptacle,
an electrical plug comprising a plug housing, phase and neutral plug blades,
a fault circuit interrupter wherein the fault circuit interrupter is electrically connected at load end phase, neutral and shield ports to the cable at second ends of the phase, neutral and shield conductors, and at line end phase and neutral ports to the phase and neutral plug blades wherein leakage current collected by the shield enables operation of the fault circuit interrupter to electrically disconnect the receptacle from the plug, and
an integrity indicator located in the plug or receptacle to verify the conductivity of the ~~phase or shield conductors~~ conductor and that protection by said fault circuit interrupter is available during ~~either the negative or positive half cycle~~ cycles of an AC signal ~~of on~~ the phase conductor.

33. (Cancelled)